

## ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION DOMICILIARY FACILITY AT FORT LOGAN, COLO.

JULY 3, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. RANKIN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 2584]

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2584) to provide for the establishment of a Veterans' Administration domiciliary facility at Fort Logan, Colo., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The committee adopts the report of the Senate Committee on Finance.

The purpose of the bill is to provide for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a facility for the domiciliary care of veterans at Fort Logan, Colo., on property now in the possession of the Veterans' Administration.

A resolution of the former Federal Board of Hospitalization, adopted May 29, 1946, and approved by the President on June 8, 1946, authorized the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to enter into an agreement with the then War Department for the transfer of the Fort Logan station hospital at Fort Logan, Denver, Colo., to the Veterans' Administration and to provide temporarily at that location a 300-bed veterans' hospital for general medical and tuberculosis cases. On October 22, 1946, the Veterans' Administration hospital at Fort Logan was activated.

In September 1951 the Veterans' Administration vacated the Fort Logan Hospital, which at that time had a capacity of 326 beds, and moved into its new 500-bed general medical and surgical hospital in

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Denver. Recommendation was made that the Veterans' Administration continue to operate the Fort Logan Hospital as a domiciliary home.

Your committee favors the establishment, operation, and maintenance by the Veterans' Administration of the Fort Logan Hospital as an additional domiciliary home.

The report of the Veterans' Administration follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,  
Washington 25, D. C., May 27, 1952.

Hon. JOHN E. RANKIN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

DEAR MR. RANKIN: Reference is made to your request for a report by the Veterans' Administration on H. R. 6403 and H. R. 6466, Eighty-second Congress, identical bills, each entitled "A bill to provide for the establishment of a Veterans' Administration domiciliary facility at Fort Logan, Colorado," which reads as follows:

"That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is hereby authorized and directed to establish, operate, and maintain on the property now in the possession of the Veterans' Administration at Fort Logan, Colorado, a facility for the domiciliary care of veterans eligible therefor under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration.

"SEC. 2. Such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act are authorized to be appropriated."

The purpose of the bills is to provide for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a facility for the domiciliary care of veterans at Fort Logan, Colo., on property now in the possession of the Veterans' Administration.

A resolution of the former Federal Board of Hospitalization, adopted May 29, 1946, and approved by the President on June 8, 1946, authorized the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to enter into an agreement with the then War Department for the transfer of the Fort Logan station hospital at Fort Logan, Denver, Colo., to the Veterans' Administration and to provide temporarily at that location a 300-bed veterans' hospital for general medical and tuberculosis cases. On October 22, 1946, the Veterans' Administration hospital at Fort Logan was activated.

In September 1951 the Veterans' Administration vacated the Fort Logan hospital which at that time had a capacity of 326 beds and moved into its new 500-bed general medical and surgical hospital in Denver. Recommendation was made that the Veterans' Administration continue to operate the Fort Logan hospital as an additional domiciliary home. However after carefully considering the use to be made of the property the President determined that the over-all interests of the Government would be served best and most economically by continuing this institution in use as a hospital and making it available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to meet its critical need for beds. In making this determination the President took into consideration the very high prevalence of tuberculosis among Indians particularly among the Navajos and the large backlog of known cases for whom no hospital beds are available. The President also stated that this course of action will obviate the need for constructing a 200-bed Indian hospital for which authorization now exists.

The President requested that the Fort Logan hospital be made immediately available to the Secretary of the Interior on a temporary occupancy basis pending the securing of necessary legal authority for its transfer. However, advice was received from the Secretary of the Interior that the Bureau of Indian Affairs will not be in a position to take over the hospital until an appropriation is obtained along with the necessary legal authority. The Secretary of the Interior asked the Veterans' Administration to retain actual custody of the hospital until necessary funds are appropriated and the Veterans' Administration has agreed to retain protective custody pending appropriation of funds to the Department of the Interior to cover operation and maintenance costs and certain remodeling work. Language authorizing formal transfer of the property, together with funds for its repair, equipment, and operation is included in the 1953 budget (p. 766, H. Doc. No. 285, 82d Cong., "The Budget of the United States Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953"). However, this language was not contained in the Interior Department appropriation bill, 1953 (H. R. 7176, 82d Cong.) which

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passed the House on March 27, 1952. The report of the House Committee on Appropriations (Rept. No. 1628, 82d Cong.) on page 8, included the following:

"The budget included a proposal to transfer the Veterans' Administration hospital facility located at Fort Logan, Colo., to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This transfer is not approved and the funds programed for its operation amounting to \$875,807 have not been allowed."

The mentioned appropriation bill is presently pending before the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that the enactment of the proposed legislation would not be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

CARL R. GRAY, Jr., *Administrator.*

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